



Trash Talk

The HRRRA Haulers Newsletter



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Haulers Discuss State Solid Waste Plan

At the last HRRRA Hauler Meeting in August, discussion focused on State efforts to revise CT's current solid waste management plan and what that might mean for haulers in the future. Proposals under consideration by the State which may be of interest to haulers include future curbside collection of food wastes, adoption of a uniform state-wide tipping fee, and pay as you throw pricing for customers to encourage recycling.

Dave Dunleavy from AWD reported that he attended one of the stakeholder meetings in Hartford in June. Participating in the MSW

group he learned that in 1991 the average person in CT threw away .8 tons of garbage per year, but by 2005 the amount had increased to 1 ton per person per year. Facilities inside CT only have the capacity to process 2.3 million tons per year of MSW, leaving about 350,000 tons per year that currently must be disposed of out of state.

The State plan is looking at whether additional in-state disposal capacity should be developed over the next 10 years and/or whether additional recycling, source reduction and reuse can lower or lessen the rate of increase in

the MSW tonnage produced.

Pat Caruso of **Associated Refuse Haulers** asked whether the intermediate processing center could handle the additional contamination that would result from increased recycling. He said there was a need for municipal recycling enforcement agents like they have in Canada who go out and inspect curbside items and issue fines for failure to recycle or for improper recycling.

Alice Hutchinson from **Bethel** noted that the zoning regulations may need changing in some towns to allow for recycling containers for multi-family dwellings.

Recycling Bins or Blue Bags?

HRRRA Director Cheryl Reedy asked those at the last haulers' meeting what the pros and cons would be if the region were to change from a blue bag to a bin recycling system. **Joe LoStocco** of **LoStocco Services** said such a change would not pose any hardship for most haulers or their trucks. **Ciro Viento** of AWD agreed with that assessment, but said such a change might be a problem for the public since customers must retrieve bins from the curbside each

week after pick up. **Andy Koza** of **Waste Management**, whose company already provides recycling bins for customers, said bins are much easier to monitor than blue bags for common contaminants such as pots & pans, toasters, coat hangers,



etc.

Customers could save money if they didn't have to purchase blue bags, but some area haulers are providing blue bags to customers at no additional charge.

The Town of Newtown provides bins to property owners for its municipal recycling collection program. According to **Newtown Public Works Director Fred Hurley**, bin replacement is an ongoing responsibility for his department as homeowners move or bins are lost to snow plows and wind storms.

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HRRRA
2006 Meeting Dates
First Floor, Room 133
Brookfield Town Hall
10:30 a.m.
January 20, 2006
March 17, 2006
June 16, 2006*
October 20, 2006

* Annual Meeting

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Bidding on Municipal MSW and Recycling Contracts

Haulers planning to bid on collection and disposal services for MSW and recycling collection at municipal sites in the eleven HRRAs member municipalities should be aware that member municipalities have a contractual obligation to dispose of municipally generated MSW and recyclables at designated HRRAs facilities. The only exceptions are for recyclables from municipal sites in Redding and Ridgefield since those two communities opted out of the HRRAs recycling region from the very beginning.

In the early 1990s the City of Danbury along with the towns of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown and Sherman all signed Municipal Recycling Service Agreements with HRRAs which required all program recyclables “generated from facilities owned or operated by the municipality to be delivered to the System”, i.e. the regional Intermediate Processing Center at Recycling Technologies, Inc. located at 307 White Street in Danbury.

Program recyclables include news-

papers, magazines, corrugated cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, and glass and metal food and beverage containers. Facilities owned or operated by a municipality include municipal transfer stations, town halls, schools, senior centers, parks, libraries, police stations, firehouses, etc.

Also from the early 1990s contractual agreements between all eleven HRRAs municipalities, HRRAs and Wheelabrator Environmental Systems, Inc. require that MSW generated by a municipality from municipally owned or operated facilities must be disposed of at one of the three HRRAs transfer stations in the region.

These contractual obligations are binding upon the municipalities for at least another ten years. At current rates, the MSW tip fee at HRRAs transfer stations is \$77.71 per ton and the recycling tip fee at RTI is \$38.51 per ton. While bids for municipal contracts may vary based on pick up and hauling charges and/or the number of weekly pick ups, the actual dis-

posal charges should be the same for all legitimate bidders.

Failure of a municipality to include language in an RFP requiring disposal of municipally generated MSW at HRRAs transfer stations and recyclables at RTI does not exempt the municipality from its contractual obligations to HRRAs.

All HRRAs municipalities have been recently reminded of their contractual obligations for disposing of MSW and program recyclables at HRRAs facilities. These contractual obligations were not affected by the U.S. Supreme Court decision on flow control. The obligation does not extend to waste and recyclables generated within the municipality’s borders that is not from town or city owned or operated facilities, e.g. residential or commercial buildings.

In order to insure fairness for haulers bidding on municipal contracts, the Authority will investigate and take action, if warranted, on any alleged breach of municipal contractual obligations with HRRAs.

2006 Service Fee Estimate From Wheelabrator

Wheelabrator Bridgeport has notified all haulers using the HRRAs transfer stations that the estimated service fee for municipal solid waste (MSW) effective January 1, 2006 will be \$77.71 per ton, a 2.56% increase over the 2005 rate.

The contract between Wheelabrator and HRRAs allows for an annual service fee increase equal to one-half of the consumer price index (CPI) change for the

prior year. Wheelabrator provides an estimate of the coming year’s service fee to haulers for planning purposes because the government does not publish the CPI change for the prior year until late February. If the actual rate is different from the estimated rate, that difference will be reflected in haulers’ March billings.

The service fee covers the cost of disposal, transfer and transportation for

MSW as well as a small program fee to partially cover the cost of HRRAs’s operation.

2005 and 2006 Tip Fee Comparison

	2005	2006
Tip Fee	\$62.46	\$64.06
Transfer Fee	7.62	7.81
Transportation Fee	5.15	5.28
<u>HRRAs Program Fee</u>	<u>.55</u>	<u>.56</u>
Total Fee Per Ton	\$75.77	\$77.71

Happy 25th Birthday to the Superfund Program

Twenty-five years ago on Dec. 11, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, also known as Superfund, creating the Federal government's program to clean up the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Through the Superfund program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its partners address abandoned, accidentally spilled, or illegally dumped hazardous waste that poses current or future threats to human health or the environment.

There is at least one Superfund site in every State, including 420 sites in CT, and 25 sites in the HRR municipalities. Despite all the program's successes, one in four Americans still lives within 3 miles of a Superfund site.

It's the Law! State Statutes of Interest to Haulers—Recycling Enforcement

CT General Statute 22a-220c(a) requires each municipality to notify haulers of recycling requirements. After such notice, haulers must notify the municipal recycling contact about any customer



believed to be discarding designated recyclables with solid waste. The municipality may ask the hauler to provide a warning notice to customers who fail to separate recyclables from solid waste.

Haulers are also required to work with municipalities to identify persons responsible for creating solid waste loads containing significant amounts of recyclables.

All HRR towns have a designated Recycling Coordinator. A list of local Recycling Coordinators is available from HRR.

HRRA Transfer Stations Holiday Schedule

Danbury Transfer Station

NO HOLIDAY CLOSINGS!

The Danbury Transfer Station will be **OPEN** during regularly scheduled hours on:

- Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24
- New Year's Eve, Saturday Dec. 31
- Monday, Dec. 26, 2005
- Monday, Jan. 2, 2006



Newtown Transfer Station

Will Be CLOSED On:

- Monday, Dec. 26, 2005
- Monday, Jan. 2, 2006

and

- Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Monday, Jan 16, 2006



Ridegfield Transfer Station

Will Be CLOSED On:

- Monday, Dec. 26, 2005
- Monday, Jan. 2, 2006

and

- Presidents' Day
- Monday, Feb. 20, 2006



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Reduce Reuse Recycle

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Bridgewater
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Danbury
New Milford
Redding
Sherman



Starbucks Coffee To Receive 8th Annual National Recycling Coalition Award

The National Recycling Coalition will present its Eighth Annual “Recycling Works” Recognition Award to Starbucks Coffee Company in January. This award is given to organizations in recognition of leadership in recycling and environmental conservation.

Working with its suppliers, Starbucks has developed a paper coffee cup that contains 10% post-consumer recycled paper—a first for the industry. The introduction of Starbucks recycled content cup in early 2006 will mark a major milestone in the company’s efforts to address its environmental impact, lowering its dependence on tree fiber annually by more than five million pounds.

While the recycled content cup is one

of the company’s latest innovations, Starbucks has maintained a long-term commitment to environmental sustainability. A major participant in the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, Starbucks offers customers a 10-cent discount for using a re-usable commuter mug. In 2004, customers used commuter mugs 15.1 million times, avoiding 655,000 pounds of paper waste.

Starbucks also encourages customers to use coffee grounds, which make up 37% of the waste stream created by its stores, as a soil amendment by offering complementary five-pound bags of used coffee grounds through its Grounds for Your Garden program.

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



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